



DISTRICT TIDES

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Agreement signed to deepen harbor channel

By Jerry Rogers
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

In a move essential to the economic vitality of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Army Corps of Engineers joined the Virginia Port Authority April 23 to sign the federal Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to deepen the inbound shipping channel element in the Hampton Roads Harbor to 50 feet.

Signing the historic pact at the World Trade Center in Norfolk, Va., were U.S. Senator John W. Warner (R-Va.); Deputy Secretary of the Army for Policy and Legislation George Dunlop; Virginia Secretary of Transportation Whittington W. Clement; Virginia Port Authority Executive Director J. Robert Bray; and Norfolk District Commander Col. David L. Hansen.

The PCA signing became reality when the Corps' North Atlantic Division in New York approved the project study last November, establishing the federal interest in deepening the

inbound channel element in the Hampton Roads Harbor to 50 feet. The harbor's outbound channel depth of 50 feet was constructed in 1989. Approval of the study meant that the Norfolk District could move forward to complete the full-width, 50-foot-deep channel in the Port of Hampton Roads two years ahead of schedule.

The district is finalizing the design, plans and specifications for project construction, and a contract for dredging the Thimble Shoal portion of the project is scheduled for award in July with dredging operations expected to begin in August, said Project Manager Robert N. Pretlow Jr.

Dredged material will be placed in the Atlantic Ocean's Dam Neck Dredged Material Management Area. Dredging of the Norfolk Harbor and Atlantic Ocean portions of the project will follow. The project should be completed by October 2005, with an estimated cost, including landside improvements at the local marine terminals, of about \$37 million. The project is cost-shared between the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"This study approval and PCA signing guarantees the continued competitiveness of the port and this deeper water means the biggest ships in the world can call on the Port of Hampton Roads," said Hansen. "And as we know, the port is vital to the economic growth of the Commonwealth as well as to sister states in the U.S. Midwest."

Guests at the PCA signing represented a diverse cross-section of the Commonwealth's marine transporta-

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(From left to right) Executive Director of the Virginia Port Authority, J. Robert Bray, Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Whittington W. Clement, U.S. Senator John W. Warner (R-Va.), George Dunlop, deputy Secretary of the Army for Policy and Legislation, and Norfolk District Commander, Col. David L. Hansen, sign the federal Project Cooperation Agreement which will begin dredging operations to deepen Norfolk Harbor's inbound channel element to 50 feet. Observing the signing is new Coast Guard Commander, Fifth District, Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara. District Project Manager Robert N. Pretlow Jr. is in background. (Photo courtesy the Virginia Port Authority)

Fort Monroe flexes its 'sporting' muscles

By Bobby Belleza and Ruby Garnett

Fort Monroe, Va., unveiled its much anticipated world-class fitness center April 21 with a facility ribbon-cutting ceremony involving Norfolk District Commander Col. David L. Hansen, post Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Browning, Northeast Region Installation Management Agency Director Diane Devens, and Fort Monroe Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director Paul Heilman.

Hundreds of soldiers and civilians and their families, along with City of Hampton Mayor Mamie Locke, gathered to witness the grand opening of this newly renovated and historic building, which had served as a YMCA from 1907 to 1992.

"Part of our mission here is to provide quality facilities that support all members of our Defense Department team," said Post Commander Col. Perry D. Allmendinger. "This new facility not only accomplishes that goal, but also promotes fitness and wellness," he added.

The goal of the renovation was to retain the building's historic character while bringing the post's physical fitness space requirements to adequate levels.

Extensive efforts were taken to restore or replicate the unique features of this turn-of-the-century building, such as the elaborate oak wood entry, ornate plaster cornice ceiling, hardwood floors, fireplace mantel, original four-over-one windows and metal pan ceiling.

But at 34,000 square feet, this world-class facility boasts the latest in today's physical fitness technology, including computer-linked fitness equipment which can track an individual's progress, a 20-foot climbing wall, racquetball courts, saunas, yoga classes, step aerobics and kickboxing, a group-cycling room enhanced by sound effects and fiber optic



From left, Col. David L. Hansen, Army Corps of Engineers; IMA Northeast Regional Director Diane Devens; Post Command Sergeant Major Anthony Browning; Paul Heilman, Director of Fort Monroe Morale, Welfare and Rec; cut the ribbon on the fitness center (Photo by Roger T. Conroy).

lighting; and tanning and massage services.

Corps Project Engineer John Clark said trying to incorporate the historical elements of this old building into a modern facility proved to be a bit trying at times. "There were many obstacles to overcome in the completion of this project, but I was glad to see our project delivery team work so well together to deliver a quality product," he said.

The Fort Monroe Fitness Center is open to all eligible Defense Department employees. For more information, log onto: www.monroemwr.com/fitness2_files/fitness2.htm

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tion system. They joined with Hansen in touting the economic benefits of navigation and what this project means to the Commonwealth.

Senator Warner, who played a key role in gaining Congressional approval for both channel-deepening projects, said this signing "represents a very fulfilling day."

"Sure, I've worked for years to see this day become reality," said Warner, "but it's really about the Congressional delegation working hard as a team — putting politics aside — and doing what's right for this state and this country."

Senator Warner, a 25-year veteran of Congress and the third longest-serving U.S. senator, said the coast is now clear to have another application of federal tax dollars improve this port, which is the second largest on the East Coast.

"We're a one-world market now, no longer an isolated nation, and we grow stronger from our expanding use of waterborne commerce," Warner added.

Virginia's Secretary of Transportation commented that the project signing represented a watershed moment for the Commonwealth.

"In 1986, we created this project with the (first) PCA signing to deepen the harbor's outbound channel element to 50 feet," said Secretary Clement. "That partnership formed with the federal government, through the strong support of Senator Warner and the engineering expertise of the Corps, has allowed us to bring in the biggest ships in the world and to accommodate the world's largest aircraft carriers. This is indeed a great day for the Commonwealth because it bears the fruits and reaps the dividends of a wonderful partnership formed in the mid-1980s."

Ft. Eustis breaks ground on second access road

By Jerry Rogers
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Fort Eustis, home of the US Army Transportation Center, is located between the banks of the Warwick and James Rivers in Newport News, Va. On May 30, after decades of effort, ground was broken for the construction of a second access road for the installation.

"Many hands have helped over so many years that to say this is a monumental day in the history of Fort Eustis is not an overstatement," said Maj. Gen. Robert T. Dail, commander, U.S. Army Transportation Center and School. "We owe a great deal of thanks to so many people, including Congressman Robert C. Scott (3rd Dist.-Va.) and then-freshman Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis (1st Dist.-Va.) who helped to prepare the battlefield, to our senior Senator John Warner whose leadership was vital in gaining the project funds, and to Mayor Joe Frank of Newport News, Va., who ensured the post had his city's right of way for this second access road."



The Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed the project and will oversee the \$10.69 million construction contract awarded to Tidewater/Skanska of Virginia Beach, Va. Construction is set for completion in the summer of 2005.

Once completed, the second access road will serve as a second entrance gate on to Fort Eustis for residential traffic, and provide increased force protection measures. "It will also vastly improve the quality of life for residents here who so richly deserve it," said Mayor Frank.

U.S. Army celebrates transformation on 228th birthday

By Nancy Allen
Public Affairs Specialist

The U.S. Army will celebrate its 228th birthday on June 14, 2003. The theme of this year's celebration is "U.S. Army – At War and Transforming."

The roots of the United States Army go back to June of 1775 when the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, formed a military force to preserve the "liberties of America" from the encroachment of British King George III's government.

General George Washington was chosen as commander in chief of the new Army. After the Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, the Continental Army's mission changed from local defense of American rights to overall national survival.

The new Constitution, written in 1787, established a regular army and navy and a militia under state control but it took steps to keep those forces under tight Congressional reigns.

President Thomas Jefferson supported a small permanent establishment that, in time of peace, would serve the nation in

ways beyond strictly military. He established the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1802, largely to create a school for the training of scientists and engineers who could aid in national development. He also turned to the Army to assert control over newly-acquired western territories.

Today's Army continues to perform a long list of missions in support of American foreign policy and in response to domestic needs. The precise character of the Army's missions has varied depending on the needs of the nation at a particular time, whether fighting a war for survival, developing a transportation network and skilled engineers to support it, providing disaster relief, keeping the peace, or supporting American diplomacy. While performing all these contemporary missions, the Army has sought to anticipate and prepare for the future. Transforming the Army in order to be responsive to the diverse challenges of the twenty-first century will be a continuing challenge.

(Portions of this article were taken from "225 Years of Service: The U.S. Army, 1775 – 2000" written by David W. Hogan Jr., available at www.army.mil)

Expanded marina facilities bless Fort Monroe

By Jerry Rogers
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

The historic Old Point Comfort Marina, home to more than 180 vessels, received its annual "Blessing of the Fleet" May 10. Amid pomp and ceremony, a Parade of Sails salute and a special visitation from self-styled ancestors of Blackbeard the Pirate, Fort Monroe Post Commander Col. Perry Allmendinger officially opened the newly expanded, world-class Old Point Comfort Marina.

The expanded marina at Fort Monroe now features 324 boat slips, varying in length from 25 to 50-feet; an 800-square-foot bath house; a lighted parking area; a floating fuel pier; an east-west and north-end wave screen; a new fuel storage building; and other modern facility upgrades.

The Norfolk District of the Army Corps of Engineers, under Project Manager Bobby Belleza and team members John Clark, Ruby Garnett and Don McMyne, managed the marina's new expansion project and the design-build contractor was Marine Contracting Corp., based in Virginia Beach, Va.

During his remarks, Col. Allmendinger spoke of the



Fort Monroe Post Commander Col. Perry Allmendinger, Director of Community and Family Activities Paul A. Heilman, and Theresa Grogan, Old Point Comfort Marina manager, join with a friendly pirate to cut the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the world-class Old Point Comfort Marina. Post Chaplain Lt. Col (P) David Reese (background) adds his blessings. (Photo by Jerry Rogers)

marina's historic and strategic significance.

"Nearly 400 years ago, English Captain Christopher Newport found what he thought was a good piece of real estate, a point of land which extended south from Hampton, Va., like a huge fishhook, its sharp end bent up to the left," said Allmendinger. "Newport's expedition party found a channel alongside the point and 'sounded twelve fathoms.' This put them in such 'good comfort' that they named the point 'Cape Comfort.' The point's name was later changed to 'Old Point Comfort,' where Fort Monroe now sits...to include the Old Point Comfort Marina," Allmendinger continued.

"Today we acknowledge and take pride in the completion of the marina's expansion project that kicks off a tremendous expanse of boating services never before seen here," he stated. "We live and play on the water. And using the historic Old Point

Comfort Marina means quick access to enjoy the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake and Willoughby bays, the York and James rivers, and other inviting tributaries."

LTC David Dougherty's District Farewell

May 22, 2003



LTC David Dougherty, outgoing Deputy District Engineer, and his wife Kathy.



At left: Col. David Hansen presents LTC Dougherty with the prestigious deFlury medal. Above: "Col. Doc" displays the district's gift, an authentic engineer recruiting poster.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month 2003

Compiled by Nancy Allen
Public Affairs Specialist

May was Asian-Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Over the years, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made many lasting contributions to the rich history and culture of the United States. Here are profiles of just a few of the well-known Asian Americans in politics, sports, science, the arts and the military, including our own Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki.

Gen. Eric Shinseki, U.S. Army Chief of Staff



General Shinseki graduated from the US Military Academy in 1965 with a bachelor's degree. He earned an M.A. in English literature from Duke University. He has also taken the Armor Officer Advanced Course and attended the Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College. He received two

Purple Hearts and four Bronze Star Medals for his service in Vietnam. He then served for more than 10 years in Europe. Shinseki was named a lieutenant general and deputy chief of staff for operations and planning in 1996. The following year, he was promoted to general, later being made commander of the U.S. Army in Europe, the allied land forces in Central Europe, and the NATO force in Bosnia. In 1998 he was named vice chief of staff of the Army, and chief of staff in 1999. Gen. Shinseki will retire on June 11.

Dr. David Da-I Ho, AIDS research pioneer



Dr. David Ho has been a leader in the field of HIV/AIDS research for over a decade. The impact of his work on the viral dynamics of HIV changed the way HIV/AIDS is investigated and treated, and earned him Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" award in 1996. Dr. Ho's work revealed that HIV is highly active from

the moment of infection, replicating and mutating continuously. Born in Taiwan, he moved to Los Angeles, Ca., at the age of 13. In 1974, he graduated from the California Institute of Technology with a B.S. summa cum laude in physics. Switching to medical research, he earned his M.D. at Harvard Medical School in 1978. Dr. Ho currently serves as the scientific director and chief executive officer of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, the largest private HIV/AIDS research center in the world.

Yo-Yo Ma, Cellist



An internationally acclaimed composer and musician, Yo-Yo Ma has spent a lifetime expanding the cello repertoire and using music to educate and promote cultural diversity. Of Chinese descent, Ma was born in Paris. He gave his first public concert at the age of five, and played at Carnegie Hall at the age of seven. Ma's multi-faceted career includes 14 Grammy Awards, recorded works from Johann Sebastian Bach to Cole Porter, and collaborations with Itzhak Perlman and Bobby McFerrin. With his Silk Road Project, Ma is promoting the cross-cultural exchange of music from countries such as Armenia, China, Greece, India, Italy and Persia.

Norman Yoshiro Mineta, Secretary of Transportation



The lone Democrat appointed to President George W. Bush's cabinet, Mineta was offered the same job in the Clinton administration, but passed so he could continue as chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee. He served for 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. When he retired in

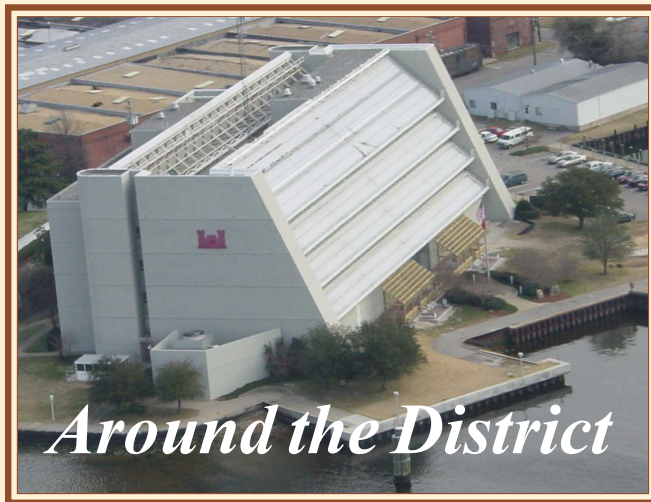
1995, he became senior vice president in the Transportation and Services Division of Lockheed Martin. In July 2000, he became President Clinton's secretary of commerce. When he was 10 years old, Mineta and his family were sent to a Japanese-American internment camp. As a congressman, he sponsored a bill to compensate internees. The legislation passed, and former internees were paid \$20,000.

Michelle Kwan, Figure Skater



Michelle Kwan began skating at the age of five and won the silver medal at the 1998 Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan and the bronze medal at the 2002 games in Salt Lake City. She is a 7-time U.S. Champion (1996, '98-'03) and 5-time World Champ (1996, '98, '00, '01, '03) and set a U.S. record with

8 career overall medals at the World Championships (5 gold, 3 silver). Kwan, a native of Torrance, Ca., won three 6.0s at the 2003 World Championships and one 6.0 in the free skate at the 2003 U.S. Championships, giving her 37 perfect 6.0s in major competitions (28 at the U.S. Championships), the most of any skater in history. She is currently a student at UCLA.



On May 17, **Bruce Williams** and **Melissa Nash** from the Regulatory Branch made a presentation to the Sandbridge Civic League concerning the Corps' involvement in the Sandbridge Road Corridor Study and the proposed Nimmo Parkway. Williams explained the overall permit process to the group and Nash provided a chronology of the preapplication process with the city of Virginia Beach. The Sandbridge Civic League requested the presentation to help answer their questions concerning the proposed roadways, which have been hotly debated among their group as well as in the newspapers.

On May, 22, **Matthew Byrne** and **Richard Klein** attended the general membership meeting of the Delmarva Water Transport Committee held in Salisbury, Maryland. The DWTC is composed of representatives of city and county governments, state agencies, the maritime transportation industry, dredging companies, and others utilizing or associated with waterborne commerce on the Delmarva Peninsula in the states of Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. The DWTC provides its members centralized liaison with the Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, and other government agencies, and its semiannual meetings serve as a forum to partner and exchange ideas related to water transportation issues. During the meeting, the general membership was briefed on Norfolk District's current and planned projects and studies.

On May 22, Public Affairs worked with **Meade Stith**, **Sam McGee** and **Karen Truxal** on an interview with Virginian-Pilot reporter Janie Bryant about the many strategies the Craney Island staff is using to keep the mosquito population under control this year. They also spoke earlier this month with WAVY-TV 10 reporter Tracy Moynihan. After a tremendous amount of press last year about mosquito outbreaks and West Nile Virus, the goal is to get the Corps' side of the story out to the public. Strategies include ditching and de-watering cells, removing standing water, larvacide dunks, filling low-lying areas, Pro-

Magnet mosquito traps, installing Purple Martin birdhouses and coordinated efforts with the City of Portsmouth. The very balanced WAVY-TV 10 story is available on the district website at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Breaking.htm>.

From the EAP FrontLine Employee Newsletter

When Calm Makes You Crazy -- Are you so busy in your job that you get stressed or anxious when blocks of time show up unfilled on your appointment calendar? Many people feel compelled to fill these free hours with more appointments and busy work to rid themselves of the anxiety. Don't fall into this trap. If your job permits, use slow times to do things you have been putting off, such as organizing your desk or work area, planning for the future, learning new skills, or preparing for upcoming projects.



A LOOK BACK...

Recently the staff at the Great Bridge Bridge resident office did some housecleaning and found a stack of old Norfolk District Information Bulletins, a precursor to the *District Tides*. In future issues we will take a look back to see what was going on at Fort Norfolk 10, 20 or even 30 years ago.

This month's "A Look Back" comes from the March 1978 Information Bulletin:

Richard Klein and Bill Sorrentino are welcomed by the Personnel Office to the Junior-Engineer-in-Training Program. Both Richard and Bill are on rotational training plans and are working at the Fort Lee Area Office.

Twenty-five years later, Bill Sorrentino is Chief of the Technical Services Division and Richard Klein is Chief of the Operations Design section in TSD.

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